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SUBJECT: MWANAWASA ON ZIMBABWE: CHILDREN BEHAVING BADLY

According to May 15 reports in Zambia's state-owned newspapers, President Mwanawasa announced that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will not expel Zimbabwe from the regional economic community or solve the problems in Zimbabwe with force, which he said would only hurt the Zimbabwean people. Mwanawasa reportedly stated that Zimbabwe's expulsion from the Commonwealth prevented Commonwealth members from "effectively participating" in Zimbabwe's affairs. "We are not going to fall into the same trap. Zimbabwe will continue to be a member and a child of SADC. When a child makes a mistake, you cannot disown him." Mwanawasa added that SADC had undertaken "a critical initiative" by holding the emergency summit on April 12, calling for the immediate release of election results, and defining, through the summit communique, how Zimbabwe should conduct the run-off elections. He said that SADC leaders are seeking to persuade Tsvangirai to participate in the run-offs.

MARTINEZ